

REMARKS

Applicants' Attorney thanks the Examiner in charge of this case for the courtesy of the interview held on January 26, 2005 wherein this case was discussed. This amendment includes the changes discussed at the interview and is believed to place the case in condition for allowance.

Thus, in accordance with the instant amendment claims 12 – 21 have been canceled. Generic claims 1 and 22 are amended to specify at least two engagement surfaces on the neck and annular portion which fit together to form at least two projections seated in at least two grooves. The arm portions of the handle have also been defined. The foregoing provides a firm locking engagement in a simple and convenient manner.

Dependent claims have also been amended to clarify the language, and claims 5 and 23 canceled.

New claims 28 and 29 cover the handle arm locking feature, see Figure 12.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not at all teach or suggest the features of the present invention or the significant advantages thereof. Takeuchi inter alia shows a handle with an integral mounting ring, but does not suggest Applicants' open

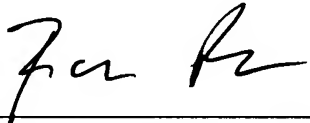
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and closed positions. Similarly, Thompson does not show a handle with an open and closed position. Bushman does show a foldable handle, but the handle of Figures 1 – 2 is two-piece and Applicants' defined engagement surfaces are not shown. The other references are believed to be farther afield.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims herein define patentably over the art. Favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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